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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/644,286	08/20/2003	Frank William Denome	9001	5790

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EXAMINER

WEBB, GREGORY E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1751

DATE MAILED: 11/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/644,286

**Applicant(s)**

DENOME ET AL.

**Examiner**

Gregory E. Webb

**Art Unit**

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 August 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 18 and 19 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17,20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>8/24/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

*[Signature]*  
11/8/05

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed 8/19/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The examiner agrees that upon indication of allowable subject matter, such method claims dependent upon these allowable claims would also be allowable. Should the scope of the claims meet these requirements, such a rejoinder will be performed. Concerning the applicant's recitation of 37 CFR 1.475, this rule applies only to PCT practice.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the

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reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claims 1-17, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cropper (US6479448).

Concerning the claimed water-soluble dye, Cropper teaches the following:

A preferred phthalocyanine is selected from the group including copper phthalocyanine, cobalt phthalocyanine, derivatives thereof and mixtures thereof. Particularly preferred are copper phthalocyanine blue and copper phthalocyanine green and mixtures thereof.(see col. 2, lines 35-40)

Concerning the claimed state of a liquid gel, Cropper teaches the following:

The composition may be considered as falling into the sub-classes of thin liquids, thick liquids, and gels/pastes.(see col. 3, lines 35-50)

Concerning the non-aqueous organic solvent system, preferred solvent and the enzyme stabilizing, Cropper teaches the following:

A preferred type of organic solvent for use herein comprises the mono-, di-, tri-, or tetra- C2-C3 alkylene glycol mono C2-C6 alkyl ethers. The specific examples of such compounds include diethylene glycol monobutyl ether, tetraethylene glycol monobutyl ether, dipropylene glycol monoethyl ether, and dipropylene glycol monobutyl ether. Diethylene glycol monobutyl ether and dipropylene glycol monobutyl ether are especially preferred.

Compounds of the type have been commercially marketed under the trade names Dowanol, Carbitol, and Cellosolve.(see cols. 7-8)

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Concerning the preferred hydratable builder and the claimed source of alkalinity, Cropper teaches the following:

Inorganic bleaching agents are in fact preferred. Such inorganic peroxygen compounds include alkali metal perborate and percarbonate materials, most preferably the percarbonates. For example, sodium perborate (e.g. mono- or tetra-hydrate) can be used. Suitable inorganic bleaching agents can also include sodium or potassium carbonate peroxyhydrate and equivalent "percarbonate" bleaches, sodium pyrophosphate peroxyhydrate, urea peroxyhydrate, and sodium peroxide. Persulfate bleach (e.g., OXONE, manufactured commercially by DuPont) can also be used. Frequently inorganic peroxygen bleaches will be coated with silicate, borate, sulfate or water-soluble surfactants. For example, coated percarbonate particles are available from various commercial sources such as FMC, Solvay Interlox, Tokai Denka and Degussa.(see col. 9, lines 15-30)

Concerning the co-builder and the claimed auxillary, Cropper teaches the following:

Particularly suitable polymeric polycarboxylates can be derived from acrylic acid. Such acrylic acid-based polymers which are useful herein are the water-soluble salts of polymerised acrylic acid. The average molecular weight of such polymers in the acid form preferably ranges from about 2,000 to 10,000, more preferably from about 4,000 to 7,000, and most preferably from about 4,000 to 5,000. Water-soluble salts of such acrylic acid polymers can include, for example, the alkali metal, salts. Soluble

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polymers of this type are known materials. Use of polyacrylates of this type in detergent compositions has been disclosed, for example, Diehl, U.S. Pat. No. 3,308,067, issued Mar. 7, 1967. Such materials may also perform a builder function.(see col. 10, lines 36-55)

Concerning the claimed surfactant, Cropper teaches the following:

One preferred class of anionic surfactants comprises alkylbenzenes sulfonic acids or the alkali salts thereof whereby the alkylbenzenes are alkylated using HF as alkylation katalyst.(see col. 6, lines 12-16)

Concerning the claimed bleach additive, Cropper teaches the following:

Such peroxygen bleaching agents may be organic or inorganic in nature. Inorganic peroxygen bleaching agents are frequently utilised in combination with a bleach activator.(see col. 8, lines 61-68).

Claims 1-17, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Vinson (US6069122).

Concerning the claimed state of a liquid gel, Vinson teaches the following:

The present invention relates to detergent compositions containing low molecular weight organic diamines. More particularly, the invention is directed to detergent compositions for hand dishwashing which have improved grease removal performance and benefits in sudsing. The detergents of this invention also have improved low temperature stability properties and superior dissolution, as well as improved tough food stain

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removal, and antibacterial properties. The detergent compositions of this invention can be in any form, including granular, paste, gel or liquid.

Highly preferred embodiments are in liquid or gel form.(see col. 1, lines 15-27)

Concerning the claimed water-soluble dye, Vinson teaches the following:

Brightener--Any optical brighteners or other brightening or whitening agents known in the art can be incorporated at levels typically from about 0.01% to about 1.2%, by weight, into the detergent compositions herein. Commercial optical brighteners which may be useful in the present invention can be classified into subgroups, which include, but are not necessarily limited to, derivatives of stilbene, pyrazoline, coumarin, carboxylic acid, methinecyanines, dibenzothiophene-5,5-dioxide, azoles, 5- and 6-membered-ring heterocycles, and other miscellaneous agents. Examples of such brighteners are disclosed in "The Production and Application of Fluorescent Brightening Agents", M. Zahradnik, Published by John Wiley &(see col. 25, lines 5-20)

Concerning the non-aqueous organic solvent system, Vinson teaches the following:

(166) Liquid detergent compositions can contain water and other solvents as carriers. Low molecular weight primary or secondary alcohols exemplified by methanol, ethanol, propanol, and isopropanol are suitable. Monohydric alcohols are preferred for solubilizing surfactant, but polyols such as those containing from 2 to about 6 carbon atoms and from 2 to about 6 hydroxy groups (e.g., 1,3-propanediol, ethylene glycol, glycerine, and 1,2-propanediol) can also be used. The compositions may contain from 5% to 90%, typically 10% to 50% of such carriers (see col. 27, lines 30-38)

Concerning the preferred hydratable builder and the claimed source of alkalinity, Vinson teaches the following:

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(160) The buffering agent may be an active detergent in its own right, or it may be a low molecular weight, organic or inorganic material that is used in this composition solely for maintaining an alkaline pH. Preferred buffering agents for compositions of this invention are nitrogen-containing materials. Some examples are amino acids such as lysine or lower alcohol amines like mono-, di-, and tri-ethanolamine. Other preferred nitrogen-containing buffering agents are Tri(hydroxymethyl)amino methane (HOCH.sub.2).sub.3 CNH.sub.3 (TRIS), 2-amino-2-ethyl-1,3-propanediol, 2-amino-2-methyl-propanol, 2-amino-2-methyl-1,3-propanol, disodium glutamate, N-methyl diethanolamide, 1,3-diamino-propanol N,N'-tetra-methyl-1,3-diamino-2-propanol, N,N-bis(2-hydroxyethyl)glycine (bicine) and N-tris (hydroxymethyl)methyl glycine (tricine). Mixtures of any of the above are also acceptable. Useful inorganic buffers/alkalinity sources include the alkali metal carbonates and alkali metal phosphates, e.g., sodium carbonate, sodium polyphosphate. For additional buffers see McCutcheon's EMULSIFIERS AND DETERGENTS, North American Edition, 1997, McCutcheon Division, MC Publishing Company Kirk and WO 95/07971 both of which are incorporated herein by reference. (see col. 26, lines 26-48)

Concerning the co-builder and the claimed auxillary, Vinson teaches the following:

Acrylic/maleic-based copolymers may also be used as a preferred component of the dispersing/anti-redeposition agent. Such materials include the water-soluble salts of copolymers of acrylic acid and maleic acid. The average molecular weight of such copolymers in the acid form preferably ranges from about 2,000 to 100,000, more preferably from about 5,000 to 75,000, most preferably from about 7,000 to 65,000. The ratio of acrylate to maleate segments in such copolymers will generally range from about 30:1 to about 1:1, more preferably from about 10:1 to 2:1. Water-soluble salts of such acrylic acid/maleic acid copolymers can include, for example, the alkali metal, ammonium and substituted ammonium salts.

Soluble acrylate/maleate copolymers of this type are known materials which are described in European Patent Application No. 66915, published Dec. 15, 1982, as well as in EP 193,360, published Sep. 3, 1986, which also



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describes such polymers comprising hydroxypropylacrylate. Still other useful dispersing agents include the maleic/acrylic/vinyl alcohol terpolymers. Such materials are also disclosed in EP 193,360, including, for example, the 45/45/10 terpolymer of acrylic/maleic/vinyl alcohol.(see col. 22, lines 34-55)

Concerning the claimed surfactant, Vinson teaches the following:

(i) anionic surfactants, said anionic surfactants selected from the group consisting of linear alkylbenzene sulfonate, alpha olefin sulfonate, paraffin sulfonates, methyl ester sulfonates, alkyl sulfates, alkyl alkoxy sulfate, alkyl sulfonates, alkyl alkoxylated sulfates, sarcosinates, taurinates, alkyl alkoxy carboxylate, and mixtures thereof;(see col. 9, lines 4-38)

Concerning the most preferred surfactant, Vinson teaches the following:

These amine oxide surfactants in particular include C.sub.10 -C.sub.18 alkyl dimethyl amine oxides and C.sub.8 -C.sub.12 alkoxy ethyl dihydroxy ethyl amine oxides.(see col. 11, lines 31-34)

Concerning the enzyme stabilizing, Vinson teaches the following:

Enzyme Stabilizing System--The enzyme-containing compositions herein may optionally also comprise from about 0.001% to about 10%, preferably from about 0.005% to about 8%, most preferably from about 0.01% to about 6%, by weight of an enzyme stabilizing system. The enzyme stabilizing system can be any stabilizing system which is compatible with the deterative enzyme. Such a system may be inherently provided by other formulation actives, or be added separately, e.g., by the formulator or by a manufacturer of

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detergent-ready enzymes. Such stabilizing systems can, for example, comprise calcium ion, boric acid, propylene glycol, short chain carboxylic acids, boronic acids, and mixtures thereof, and are designed to address different stabilization problems depending on the type and physical form of the detergent composition.(see col. 19, lines 37-51)

Claims 1-17, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Julemont (US4740327).

Concerning the claimed water-soluble dye, Julemont teaches the following:

Similar results are obtained when the procedure of Example 1 is repeated, but replacing corresponding ingredients with alkyl sulfate surfactant, e.g., sodium coconut alkyl sulfate, attapulgite clay, e.g., Attagel 50; and 2:1 mixture of montmorillonite and Attagel 50. The addition of small amounts, e.g., 0.002-0.05% of chlorinated phthalocyanine and aluminosilicate dyes respectively to the Example 1 composition (included with the preliminary thickener dispersion or post-added to the cooled solution) produces pleasantly colored green and blue compositions respectively.(see example 3)

Concerning the claimed state of a liquid gel, Julemont teaches the following:

Smectite clays include montmorillonite (bentonite), hectorite, saponite, and the like. Materials of this type are available under trade names such as Thixogel No. 1 and Gelwhite GP from Georgia Kaolin Company (both being

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montmorillonites). Attapulgite clays include the materials commercially available under the trade name Attagel, i.e., Attagel 40, Attagel 50 and Attagel 150 from Engelhard Minerals and Chemicals Corporation. Mixtures of smectite and attapulgite types in weight ratios of 4:1 to 1:5 are also useful herein. Thickening or suspending agents of the foregoing types are well known in the art, being described, for example, in the referenced U.S. Pat. No. 3,985,668. Abrasives or polishing agents should be avoided.(see col. 6, lines 7-20)

Concerning the non-aqueous organic solvent system and the most preferred surfactant, Julemont teaches the following:

As other suitable surfactants or detergents, the amine oxide surfactants are typically of the structure  $R_{2R_1}NO$ , in which each R is a lower alkyl group, for instance methyl, and  $R_1$  is a long chain alkyl group having from 8 to 22 carbon atoms, for instance a lauryl, myristyl, palmityl or cetyl group. Instead of an amine oxide, a corresponding surfactant phosphine oxide  $R_{2R_1}PO$  or sulphoxide  $RR_1SO$  can be employed. Betaine surfactants are typically of the structure  $R_{2R_1}N^{+}R''COO^{-}$ , in which each R is a lower alkylene group having from 1 to 5 carbon atoms. Specific examples of these surfactants are lauryl-dimethylamine oxide, myristyldimethylamine oxide, cocodimethylamine oxide, hardened tallow dimethyl amine oxide, the corresponding phosphine oxides and sulphoxides, and the corresponding

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betaines including dodecyldimethylammonium acetate, tetradecyl-diethylammonium pentanoate, hexadecyldimethylammonium hexanoate and the like. For biodegradability, the alkyls in these surfactants should be linear, and are preferred.(see col. 5, lines 37-55)

Concerning the preferred hydratable builder, Julemont teaches the following:

5. A composition according to claim 1 containing at least about 20 wt.% of sodium tripolyphosphate.(see claim 5)

Concerning the claimed source of alkalinity and the co-builder, Julemont teaches the following:

4. A composition according to claim 1 containing a total combined sodium tripolyphosphate, sodium silicate and sodium carbonate salt concentration of about 20 to 50 wt.%(see claim 4)

Concerning the claimed surfactant, Julemont teaches the following:

3. A composition according to claim 1 wherein said foam depressant comprises alkyl acid phosphate esters containing one or two C.sub.12-20 alkyl groups or mixtures thereof.(see claim 3)

Concerning the claimed bleach additive, Julemont teaches the following:

An aqueous highly alkaline thixotropic automatic dishwasher composition containing alkalimetal tripolyphosphate, sodium silicate, chlorine bleach stable organic detergent active surfactant material, chlorine bleach compound, preferably sodium hypochlorite, thixotropic thickener, preferably montmorillonite or attapulgite clay, and preferably chlorine bleach stable foam depressant such as a higher alkyl acid phosphate ester,

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caustic soda and soda ash.(see abstract)

Concerning the preferred intended used, Julemont teaches the following:

38. A method of washing dishes in an automatic dishwasher comprising mixing with the aqueous wash bath therein an effective amount of a composition as defined in claim 33.(see claim 38)

Concerning the yield value, Julemont teaches the following:

ADD compositions so formulated are low-foaming; stable, both chemically and physically; are readily soluble in the washing medium and most effective at pH values best conducive to improved cleaning performance, viz, pH 10.5-13.5. The compositions are normally of gel consistency, i.e., a highly viscous, opaque jellylike material having Bingham plastic character and thus relatively high yield values. Accordingly a definite shear force is necessary to initiate or increase flow, such as would obtain within the agitated dispenser cup of an energized automatic dishwasher. Under such conditions, the composition is quickly fluidized and easily dispersed. When the shear force is discontinued, the fluid composition quickly reverts to a high viscosity, Bingham plastic state closely approximating its prior consistency.(see col. 3, lines 19-34).

Claims 1-17, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ofosu-Asante, Kofi (US20030220214).

Concerning the claimed water-soluble dye, Ofosu-Asante, Kofi teaches the following:

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[0075] Brightener--Any optical brighteners or other brightening or whitening agents known in the art can be incorporated at levels typically from about 0.05% to about 1.2%, by weight, into the detergent compositions herein. Commercial optical brighteners which may be useful in the present invention can be classified into subgroups, which include, but are not necessarily limited to, derivatives of stilbene, pyrazoline, coumarin, carboxylic acid, methinecyanines, dibenzothiophene-5,5-dioxide, azoles, 5- and 6-membered-ring heterocycles, and other miscellaneous agents. Examples of such brighteners are disclosed in "The Production and Application of Fluorescent Brightening Agents", M. Zahradnik, Published by John Wiley (see par 75)

Concerning the claimed state of a liquid gel, Ofosu-Asante, Kofi teaches the following:

[0001] The present invention is in the field of gel bleaching detergents. More specifically, the invention relates to gel detergents which provide enhanced cleaning, e.g. improved stain and tough food particle removal on plastics, fabrics, and other substrates. These cleaning compositions comprise a bleaching agent, preferably diacyl peroxide, which remain insoluble in a gel detergent formulation.(see par 1)

Concerning the non-aqueous organic solvent system and the enzyme stabilizing, Ofosu-Asante, Kofi teaches the following:

[0067] Enzyme Stabilizing System--Enzyme-containing, including but not limited to, liquid compositions, herein may comprise from about 0.001% to

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about 10%, preferably from about 0.005% to about 8%, most preferably from about 0.01% to about 6%, by weight of an enzyme stabilizing system. Such stabilizing systems can, for example, comprise calcium ion, boric acid, propylene glycol, short chain carboxylic acids, boronic acids, and mixtures thereof, and are designed to address different stabilization problems depending on the type and physical form of the detergent composition. See Severson, U.S. Pat. No. 4,537,706 for a review of Borate stabilizers.(see par 67)

Concerning the preferred hydratable builder, claimed source of alkalinity and the co-builder, Ofosu-Asante, Kofi teaches the following:

[0043] Inorganic or P-containing detergent builders include, but are not limited to, the alkali metal, ammonium and alkanolammonium salts of polyphosphates (exemplified by the tripolyphosphates, pyrophosphates, and glassy polymeric meta-phosphates), phosphonates, phytic acid, silicates, carbonates (including bicarbonates and sesquicarbonates), sulphates, and aluminosilicates.(see par 43)

Concerning the claimed surfactant, Ofosu-Asante, Kofi teaches the following:

3. A method according to claim 1 wherein said surfactant is selected from the group consisting of alkyl ether sulfate, long chain alkyl ethoxylate, linear alkyl benzene sulfonate, alkyl (ether) carboxylates, alkyl polyglucoside, and mixtures thereof.(see claim 3)

Concerning the claimed bleach additive, Ofosu-Asante, Kofi teaches the following:

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[0032] Examples of suitable diacyl peroxides are selected from the group consisting dibenzoyl peroxide, benzoyl gluaryl peroxide, dianisoyl peroxide, benzoyl succinyl peroxide, di-(2-methybenzoyl) peroxide, diphthaloyl peroxide, dinaphthoyl peroxide, substituted dinaphthoyl peroxide, and mixtures thereof, more preferably dibenzoyl peroxide, dicumyl peroxide, diphthaloyl peroxides and mixtures thereof. A particularly preferred diacyl peroxide is dibenzoyl peroxide.(see par 32)

Concerning the claimed auxillary, Ofosu-Asante, Kofi teaches the following:

5. A method according to claim 1, wherein said composition further comprising an effective amount of one or more of the following: chelants, bleach-stable enzymes, detergency builder, processing aids, color speckles, dyes, fillers, germicides, soil release agents, material care agents, alkalinity sources, hydrotropes, perfumes, solubilizing agents, carriers, and mixtures thereof.(see claim 5)

Concerning the preferred intended used, Ofosu-Asante, Kofi teaches the following:

[0007] Another known bleaching source is diacyl peroxides (DAPs). Although DAPs have been disclosed for use in the laundry and anti-acne area, they have had limited success in liquid or automatic dishwashing detergent area. In the laundry field certain diacyl peroxides have been disclosed as beneficial in cleaning tea stains from fibrous material. It has now been discovered that DAPs can improve stain removal performance on plastics.(see par 7)



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***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gregory E. Webb whose telephone number is 571-272-1325. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00-17:30 (m-f).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Yogendra Gupta can be reached on 571-272-1316. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Gregory E. Webb  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1751

gew

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. Webb', written in a cursive style.